THE EIGHTH DAY.

23rd February 1915.

The Assembly met again at 11 A. M. on Tuesday, the 23rd February 1915.

125. Text books and the Pulayas.

Mr. P. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that, ever since the introduction of the Education Code, the cost of education had considerably increased. One of the contributing causes was the large number of the Malayalam text-books that had to the studied in the classes and the high prices fixed for them. The Pulaya children found it almost impossible to purchase the books. They were also unable to cope with the children of other communities in their studies. In view of the backward condition of education among the Pulayas, the Member requested that special facilities should be afforded to them at least for some time. His proposals were the following :—

(1) That the course of studies for Pulaya boys should be lightened and special text-books, dealing more largely with agricultural and industrial subjects, should be arranged to be written, and the books should be supplied to the boys free.

(2) That night schools should be established in important centres, more especially in places where other schools did not exist, and instruction imparted to the Pulaya boys and girls.

(3) That fees should be wholly remitted in the case of the children of the community.

In that connection, the Member referred to the grant of something like a monopoly for the publication of text-books to two English companies, Messrs. Macmillan & Co., and Messrs. Longman & Co. The former firm had the sole right of publishing and selling all readers and the latter the text-books on History and Geography and also copy books. The firms were making lakhs of rupees by the contract. The printing and get-up of the books issued by the firms left much to be desired and the prices put on them were exhorbitant. The Government had even gone the length of establishing a paid agency at Kottayam for receiving and selling the books published by the Companies, and they also incurred a heavy expenditure by way of service stamps in sending the books to the several institutions. The grant of such a contract was wrong in principle and the gain to the Government was little or nothing. On the other hand, the inconveniences to the public were very great He therefore prayed that, if it was too late to cancel the contract, it should at least not be renewed on the expiry of the present term of ten years.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The suggestion regarding special text-books and the opening of night schools for the Pulayas will be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for report.

126. The need for the encouragement of education among the Pariahs.

Mr. Kandan Kumaran (Member, Nominated) said that the children of his community were not freely admitted into the schools although the Education Code did not prohibit such admissions. They were invariably refused admission on the ground of want of accommodation. That difficulty should be removed. He also requested that at least one student from his community in each taluk should be granted some scholarship and that deserving students should be gradually admitted into the Sirkar service also.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

127. The need for improving eduction among the Mahomedans.

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Nominated) said that, in the Sirkar service, there were only a few Mahomedans whose service was short and who occupied not very high positions therein. He requested that such of them as were capable and

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efficient should be given promotions whenever vacancies occurred, irrespective of their service or educational qualifications. He also requested that the Members of the community should be appointed in the lower ranks of the service more freely than at present, as such encouragement would be an incentive to other young men of the community to better qualify themselves for admission into service.

Mr. Hajee Ismail Hajee Hassam (Member, Nominated) made the following suggestions for improving education among the members of his community :—

(1) Elementary Schools should be established for Mahomedan children in all the big Mahomedan centres, where they should also have facilities to learn their religion.

(2) State and Aided Schools should be directed to admit Mahomedan students on half fees, until the Government found it convenient to start Secondary Schools for the use of Mahomedans, and State scholarships should be instituted for promising Mahomedan students as an inducement for continuing their higher education.

He added that a Mahomedan Judge should be appointed in the High Court Bench, who should also be a Member of the Legislative Council to represent the interests of the community.

Mr. Shaik Mahomed Hamidani Thangal (Member, Nominated) said that the Mahomedans in the State were extremely backward in education and that their improvement in that direction could only be achieved by the active assistance of the Government. The great obstacle to the children of the community availing themselves of the facilities already afforded to them by the Government was, in the opinion of the Member, the absence of proper arrangements to teach Arabic to their children in the schools. The fall in the number of Mahomedan children under instruction in 1089 as compared with 1088 was also attributable to it. The Mahomedan religion inculcated the study of religion in youth. Every Mahomedan boy from his 7th to the 15th year was bound to learn Arabic and the chief tenets of his religion. No instruction was imparted to children in Arabic in the schools specially devoted to the education of Mahomedan children and to call such schools "Mahomedan schools" was a misnomer. He therefore requested that the Government be pleased to take such measures as they might deem proper to impart instruction in Arabic in all Mahomedan schools. He also requested that the Government should favourably consider the proposals submitted by him to the Director of Public Instruction regarding Mahomedan education, that the number of Mahomedan schools in the State should be increased and that Mahomedans who were already qualified should be liberally encouraged in the State service.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

128. The necessity for greater control over the Text-book Committee and the way to make it more useful.

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that the revision of the Text-Book Committee was a step in the right direction His object in bringing up the subject was to make certain suggestions which he considered important consistent with the reorganisation. No institution in the State came in for a larger amount of criticism than the Text-book Committee. Even charges of corruption were levelled against some of the Members. Whatever might be the truth of those charges, there was no denying the fact that the Committee did not exercise their powers properly in the selection of text-books. The procedure laid down in the G. O. reorganising the Committee was no doubt calculated to remove a good deal of the suspicion that existed before. But, so far as the working of the Committee was concerned, it was necessary to introduce certain changes to ensure their better management. His suggestions were the following :—

(1) The proceedings of the Committee should be published in the Gazette from time to time with a list of the books submitted to them for consideration and,

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